WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Impact of modified Patent Act

*305. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what impact the modified Patent Act will have on the domestic, pharmaceutical and chemical sectors, the sector-wise details thereof; and

(b) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken regarding the trepidation of small manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) As per the new patent regime introduced through the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004, effective from 1st January, 2005, patent rights to applications for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemicals filed under Sction 5(2) of the Patents Act shall accrue only from the date of grant of patent in India. Thus, the Indian manufacturers can continue to manufacture such drugs and chemicals for which patent protection is not valid in India. Majority of the drugs in the Indian Market are off patent and production will not be impacted by the modified Patent Act. The new patent regime introduced through the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance 2004, in the context of globalization of Indian economy is expected to provide an impetus to growth in research and development and enhancement in the capability of the Indian system to generate and protect the intellectual property.

Losses of SEBs

†*306. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of commercial losses in States Electricity Boards is constantly on increase for the last few years;

(b) if so, the quantum of such losses in 1990-91 and the estimated quantum of the same during 2005-06;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.